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BULLETIN

The ILLINOIS COUNCIL on MOTION PICTURES
RADIO, TELEVISION and PUBLICATIONS

SEPTEMBER, 1951

VOL. 2, NO. 1



JEAN DICKOUT LUCHT, *Editor*

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE,
STATE OF ILLINOIS



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many of us have lived through two world wars and now find ourselves on the brink of another such catastrophe. In the past years of social and economic upheaval and in those which lie ahead, our children have been and are the first to be affected. Our young people must bear the brunt of these disarrangements. Every channel of approach must be utilized to best prepare them to live in our kind of world and to meet existing conditions.

During World War II motion pictures and radio were used as the most potent weapons of propaganda by Hitler to stir up hatred and implant lies in the minds of the German youth. No one can discount the power of the motion pictures, radio, television and publications as a means of propaganda—good or bad. No citizen or organization of this state can escape his personal responsibility for the standards of such productions as they affect the moral fibre of our children and youth—the future leaders of America.

The Illinois Council—incorporated in May, 1950—is dedicated to the creation of a voluntary “partnership.” Its function is advisory at state level. As a “clearing-house,” it seeks to keep abreast with the character and effect upon children and youth of the four media of entertainment through the guidance of qualified leadership. It appeals for the cooperation of producers and distributors. It aims to implement the efforts and programs of existing organizations and to coordinate activities to the end that each will be supported by a well-informed public opinion on vital issues.

The Illinois Council now invites all the social, educational, civic, and religious leaders of each community of the state to join together and establish local councils—branches of the state group—united in a common cause to arouse public participation in the establishment of high standards of production in these media of entertainment for children and youth.

LOUISE TRASK CONN

A word from The DIVISION for YOUTH and COMMUNITY SERVICE Department of Public Welfare

George W. Withey, superintendent of this service of the state of Illinois, and executive vice president of the Council, appeals to the leaders of every community for the organization of local councils:

“How much is a Ford car worth—or a pound of sirloin steak?
“How much is a boy or girl worth?

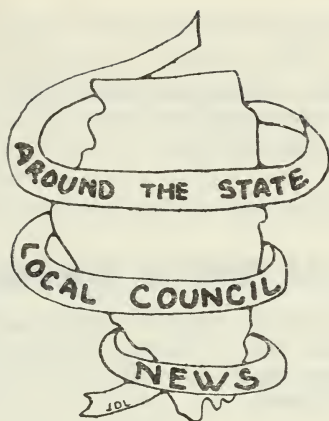
“The answer to the first question can be given in dollars and cents; but no one has ever devised a monetary system to evaluate the great worth of a personality. Our children are priceless.

“With the advent of motion pictures, radio, television, and the great number of comic books now available to children, a new set of problems confronts us all. Responsibilities of citizens and parents have been magnified many times. We cannot expect to build a generation of mature, thoughtful people unless we see to it that our children get a better diet of these various programs. *This is not a policing or censorship job.* This is rather a task to be handled by parents, citizens, and organizations interested in the welfare of young people—through cooperative relationships with producers, exhibitors, and publishers.

“With the pooling of similar ideas of individuals and organizations interested in bringing a higher standard of entertainment to our children and youth, each may see its own project embodied in local councils. By uniting in a state-wide effort, each may see its hopes realized on a broad scale in every city and village, thereby reaching a greater number of people in all communities than would otherwise be possible.

“The Illinois Council invites the leaders in all sections of the state to call the interested citizens together to design a local council similar in structure to the state organization and dedicated to study and action to better protect the minds and personalities of our children as they are affected by the impact of these outside influences on their lives.

“As the result of research, and with the help of leaders of the cooperating organizations of the Illinois Council, a manual on ‘How to Form a Local Council’ has been completed. It is offered as a guide, with interesting suggestions for each of the several primary committees which are set up to comprise such a coordinated activity.”



Hats off to the South Side (Chicago) Federation of Colored Women's clubs, for completing the organization of the South Side Local Council. We're expecting to hear great things from them before long.

Mrs. Amy Victor Keller, 4747 South Michigan Ave., (Tel. Dr 3-8329) is chairman of the council, and committee chairmen are as follows:

Motion Pictures

Mrs. Sadie R. Brown,
Chairman
4836 Champlain Ave., Chicago
Tel: Ke 6-2574

Mrs. Agnes Thornton,
Co-Chairman
433 East 45th Street, Chicago
Tel: Dr 3-1696

Radio

Mrs. Tecelia Ross,
Chairman
301 East 56th Street, Chicago
Tel: Mu 4-8336

Mrs. Nola K. Williams,
Co-Chairman
4953 Forrestville Ave., Chicago
Tel:

Television

Mrs. Anderson Brown,
Chairman
5512 Perry Avenue, Chicago
Tel: Bu 8-4703

Mrs. Hallie Evans,
Co-Chairman
4806 Forrestville Ave., Chicago
Tel: Dr 3-2767

Publications

Mrs. Georgia Cowan,
Chairman
5614 Calumet Ave., Chicago
Tel: Mu 4-8355

Mrs. Grace D. Wells,
Co-Chairman
706 East 50th Place, Chicago
Tel: At 5-2832

The next issue of the *Bulletin* will present detailed accounts of the progress of this and other local councils which are now getting under way throughout the state.

This issue of The Bulletin highlights the theme of local councils. Subsequent issues will deal directly with committee work and exchange of ideas from the various organizations.

The Editor

THE LOCAL COUNCIL—A Pattern for Organization

“How to Form a Local Council” will be sent free of charge upon request. Write to Miss Muriel Martin, Division for Youth and Community Service, Department of Public Welfare, 628 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois.

In a substantial number of Illinois towns and cities there already exist representative groups, such as village councils, to deal with social and welfare problems. Such groups can be used as the key-stones for a local council by setting up committees on the media of entertainment with ultimate representation from all civic, social, and religious organizations.

A small committee of local leaders should take the initiative. The pattern of organization need not be the same as for the State Council, but the broad objectives should be identical. They are:

- (1) To promote and encourage the production and exhibition of motion pictures and publications, and the presentation of radio and television programs which are suitable for children and youth, and to take action when necessary against such of them as are deemed objectionable.
- (2) To cooperate with all organizations in this field to co-ordinate efforts, to advance research, and to develop standards; and through local affiliated councils to implement these objectives throughout Illinois.

The Local Council—A few specific objectives:

- (1) Undertake to give good publicity to better entertainment programs.
- (2) Encourage reviewing of programs, to build local tastes.
- (3) Encourage schools to revamp courses to educate children to discriminate between good and bad. Where such routine is not established, back the efforts of the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers. They were among the first to initiate this idea.
- (4) Determine how the entire community can support programs now under way by established groups—such as P.T.A., Federated Women’s Clubs, D.A.R., and others. Coordinate such programs at top level within each com-

munity, through the qualified leadership of various organizations.

- (5) Work for special Saturday movie matinees for children and be responsible for the attendance.
- (6) Mobilize patronage for fine productions. Invite leaders of other organizations familiar with the operation of Listening Councils to help establish a network of these in local councils.
- (7) Establish responsible committees to deal with each medium of entertainment—including current reviewing of television, radio programs, comic books and other publications.
- (8) Work with local exhibitors and distributors to eliminate objectionable productions and programs and report them to the State Council.
- (9) Nominate a delegate, or delegates, to represent the local group on the State Council and attend its meetings as often as possible.

The Organization at State Level

The State Council is made up of outstanding and qualified leaders who are, or have been, affiliated with state organizations, educational institutions, libraries and churches concerned with welfare problems, with particular emphasis on children and youth and what is offered them in their recreational hours. It is divided into the following standing committees: (1) Motion Pictures; (2) Radio; (3) Television; (4) Publications; (5) Public Relations; (6) Local Councils; (7) Conference Programs; and (8) Membership. The composition of these groups, together with a list of the officers, is set forth in this *Bulletin*.

Among other things, the State Council gathers all information relative to the specific activities of cooperating organizations in the respective fields of the four media—to publicize and coordinate efforts on a broad scale in order to stimulate a wider interest and greater participation in these activities at local level, and to acquaint more people with the information available concerning them.

Functions of Evaluation at State Level

Prime Objectives: The standing committees on Motion Pictures, Radio, Television and Publications are asked to acquaint themselves, as continuing activities, with the character of the four media of entertainment available for youth and children, thus to keep Council members informed and to be in position to:

- (a) Appraise intelligently the reports or complaints from local councils;
- (b) Be thoroughly informed when called upon to deal co-operatively with officials of the four media.

LEADERS EXPRESS CONCERN

POPE PIUS XII, in an address to book and magazine editors in Rome on December 12, 1950:

"We live in the epoch of the motion picture and television. Without doubt both have drawn to themselves a notable part of the time that used to go to the printed word. Yet this very fact is creating an increased value for good books because—fully recognizing the importance of the technique and art of the film—it is true just the same that the one-sided influence that the film exercises on man, *and especially on the young*, with its almost purely visual action, involves such a danger of intellectual decadence that one begins to consider it already a danger for all people." (Underlining inserted)

REVEREND GEORGE A. FOWLER, past president, Church Federation of Greater Chicago:

"There is no doubt in the minds of thinking people that something is corrupting our children. Never before have we been so conscious of vandalism, lack of reverence and respect for anything or anybody. The criminal tendencies demonstrated by children today, eventuating many times even in murder, should shock us awake.

"These acts of violence, and this evidence of disregard for people and property, are performed not only by youngsters who would perhaps be in the juvenile delinquency class because of poverty, bad housing, ignorance and neglect of parents, but, sad to say, some of these offenders come from homes of education, affluence, and apparent refinement.

"Many of us no longer doubt that some of these acts are incited by pictures and stories placed in their minds by radio, television, moving pictures and certain types of publication.

"For one thing, more discipline is needed in the home. Parents should cease to be afraid of correcting their children. They should take more time to teach and train their children in right ways of thinking and acting. A little more companionship would help, too.

"However, the fact is that parents themselves are corrupted by these four avenues of molding thought. Instead of increased vigilance to overcome the damage done by these evil influences, parents many times assume a careless, lax attitude. 'Oh, it's only a story. The children know it. It won't hurt them.' The fact is, we are face to face with an extremely dangerous situation and something must be done about it. The Illinois Council on Motion Pictures, Radio, Television and Publications meets a great need now. Parents,

teachers, ministers, and all right-thinking citizens who love children and youth will give it utmost support."

NORMAN COUSINS, Editor, Saturday Review of Literature:

"The terror comic strips were bad enough, but they are rapidly on the way to playing squeaky second fiddles to television as prime movers in juvenile misconduct and delinquency. T.V. is hardly out of its infancy as a major industry, but already it has become the nation's number one time-trip for children."

BEN ARONIN, Director of Extension Activities, The Anshe Emet Synagogue, Chicago:

"It makes one sad to realize what careful attention is being paid to physical diet and what little care is given to the food for the child's personality and soul. As one who has dealt with and taught children for almost 30 years, I want to commend the splendid efforts of the Illinois Council."

DR. PRESTON BRADLEY, of the People's Church, Chicago, in a radio address:

"When the soul of America is being molded, it is discouraging, even frightening, to see what the masses of people laugh at and enjoy in the media of entertainment—motion pictures, radio, television and publications. What a responsibility belongs to the sponsors! Have you anything better to declare than learn to stand for something worth while?

"The humblest of us, the weakest of us, those with tragic souls, the least of us—the poorest of us—can stand for the greatest things. The least of us can stand for the greatest loyalty, or the greatest and highest in his own life; belief in the fundamental principles that never change, that stand in spite of all other changes.

"What is there for youth to stand for? The pattern that we give them—the cleanest and highest in life. It is up to you and me to keep the standard of ideals high, for 'as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he'."

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Congress of Parents and Teachers. At the annual spring conference of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the 100-member board of managers stated it was against the "blood and thunder shows" that made gun-play, killing, and torture all too commonplace. The board requested that the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters adopt a code acceptable to the American family.

Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. The motion picture, radio and television divisions of the national organization are extending their respective programs through state and local levels, building support for worthwhile productions. As part of its Youth Conservation Program, a handbook on "Youth's Diet of Comics, Radio, Television, Movies and Literature" is available.

The Federation is particularly interested in the organization of Youth Cinema Clubs.

Daughters of the American Revolution. The program of this organization revolves around a nationwide effort to educate parents and children to select only the best in entertainment through appraisal of reliable reviews such as the "D.A.R. Motion Picture Guide." It concentrates on "Children's Films for Children," and has offered an award for the best children's film produced each year.

Wisconsin Association for Better Radio and Television. The Illinois Division of the American Association of University Women has been participating on a wide scale in the Wisconsin Listening Project. This is a unique and worthwhile effort. Five states have joined with Wisconsin, and over 600 listeners have been enlisted in 40 communities of Illinois. The State Council will encourage the spread of this program through the Radio and Television Committees of its local councils as they are created.

Wilmette P. T. A. This group has an Audio-Visual Committee. Local councils, when established, should aid P.T.A. in the creation of such committees. They use the P.T.A. "Radio-Television Listening Guide" as a basis of their programs. Wilmette is a good illustration of the effectiveness of P.T.A.

The Better Films Council of Chicagoland. This group previews and evaluates current films for audience suitability, sponsors Saturday programs for children, and promotes closer cooperation with theater managers. This Council is particularly active, and although it restricts its activities to the one medium, its work is worthy of study by local councils dealing with all four media.

Joint Legislative Committee—New York State. This committee has recently recommended state regulation of comic books as necessary to the "ethical development of children."

The Chicago Area Project. Clifford R. Shaw is administrative director at 907 South Wolcott Avenue, Chicago. The Project sponsors community committees in areas of high rates of delinquency. The business and social leaders of other cities and towns of Illinois should have a copy of its prospectus.

The Glen Ellyn Children's Film Council. This council has been organized for six years. It is a cross-section of local chapters of about 35 leading national, state, and local religious, educational, and civic organizations. It has sponsored specially selected Saturday matinees for children.

Libraries. In response to a questionnaire sent out in regard to the activities of organizations interested in the media of entertainment, the following statement was received from Miss Helene H. Rogers, assistant state librarian:

"Study is now under way regarding servicing motion pictures in the same manner in which books, etc. are available. The state library has been asked to review the news-stands in the state capitol for objectionable types of comics and other cheap publications."

C. Walter Stone, professor in the Library school at the University of Illinois, states that the university is making a study of all four media.

The Catholic Legion of Decency. This organization evaluates and reviews motion pictures. The Council of Catholic Women in Chicago have conducted a crusade to eliminate bad comics from news-stands. It publishes an excellent review of motion pictures known as "Films Reviewed."

MAGAZINES OF INTEREST

TV Forecast. Robert A. Kubicek is the editor; the address is 185 North Wabash Avenue, Chicago. Here is an excellent guide for use by leaders in all towns of Illinois and for library reference. The cost is \$5 per year for single subscriptions and \$3 for additional subscriptions, with lower rates for two and three-year periods.

The Journal of the Air. Published by the Association for Education by Radio, 228 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, George Jennings, president, this magazine is an excellent guide for local councils and their radio committees. The annual dues in the association are \$3, and each member receives this publication monthly, except during the summer.

The National Parent-Teacher. This is the monthly P.T.A. Magazine, 6 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago. It catalogues acceptable film productions and keeps abreast of the trends in radio and television. We suggest every parent and good citizen subscribe to this splendid publication.

The National D.A.R. Magazine reports on motion pictures each month. In 1951 the D.A.R. will present an award to the motion picture producer who develops the best children's picture during the year. The *D.A.R. Monthly Screen Guide* may be obtained by writing Mrs. William P. Settlemayer, national chairman, Motion Picture Committee, 25 Tudor City Place, New York 17, New York. Subscription rate is 50c per year.

The Illinois Club Woman is the monthly magazine of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. All who are interested may subscribe by writing headquarters, 30 West Washington Street, Chicago.

The Wisconsin Association for Better Radio and Television, Madison, Wisconsin, issues a monthly pamphlet with interesting information on radio and television listening councils. General memberships to Better Radio Listening are \$1 and include a year's subscription to "Good Listening."

Previews, of the Better Films Council of Chicagoland, is a monthly statement of current previews of motion pictures. Copies of *Previews* are obtainable if one is interested in joining the Better Films Council, at the nominal fee of \$2 per year.

Authorized P.T.A. List of 16 mm. Films. This can be obtained by addressing the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers, 6 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, or through The Illinois Council, which has this list on file.

16 mm. Film Companies. A few of these companies are the following: Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc., Wilmette, Illinois; John Ott Films, Inc., Wilmette, Illinois; Coronet Films, 65 East South Water Street, Chicago; Ideal Pictures Corporation, 58 East South Water Street, Chicago. Rural districts having no commercial motion picture theaters can obtain good entertainment by acquiring

films or renting them from the various 16 mm. film companies and libraries.

Association Films, Inc. This is a national distributor of non-theatrical 16 mm. films for schools, colleges, churches, clubs, industries, Y.M.C.A.'s and other community organizations. Its 1951 catalog is available by addressing its offices, 206 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

The State Radio and Television Committee *Radio-Television Manual* is published twice annually and is distributed to local P.T.A. groups. This committee is composed of members representing the four major networks and key radio and television stations in Illinois, together with Parent-Teacher groups and others. Its program for "in-school use of radio and television" can be secured by addressing Elizabeth E. Marshall, state chairman of radio and television, Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers, 228 North LaSalle Street, Chicago.

Films in Review. This magazine is published by the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, Inc., 31 Union Square, New York. The editor is Henry Hart. Cost is \$3 per year.

Joint Estimates. This is a monthly report made up of the reviews of 13 organizations. This can be obtained from the National Board of Reviews. (The Glen Ellyn Public Library cooperates with the Children's Film Council by subscribing to this publication.) The 13 organizations are as follows: American Association of University Women; Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau Federation; American Library Association; American Legion Auxiliary; Children's Film Library Committee; National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution; National Federation of Music Clubs; General Federation of Women's Clubs; Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.; National Board of Review; National Council of Jewish Women; Protestant Motion Picture Council; and National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Films Reviewed. This is the monthly report on current films published by the Catholic Legion of Decency; it can be obtained by writing to the Legion's address, 35 East 51st Street, New York City.

The Children's Film Library. This contains a list of stories, classical and modern, reviewed by 13 nationally known organizations. This magazine can be obtained by writing to Miss Margery Granger Dawson, Director of the National Children's Film Library, 28 West 44th Street, New York.

The Children's Digest. This is edited and published by the publishers of PARENTS' MAGAZINE. The Digest contains good stories, classics, and comics. The subscription price is \$3 per year. The address is Bergenfield, New Jersey.

Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 148 on Comics, Radio, Movies and Children. The cost is 20c per copy. Address: Public Affairs Committee, Inc., 22 East 38th Street, New York City.

APPENDIX

ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON MOTION PICTURES, RADIO, TELEVISION AND PUBLICATIONS

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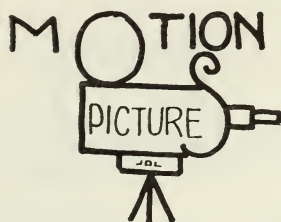
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160 N. LaSalle St., Chicago

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1200 St. Charles Rd.,
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Mrs. Courtland Munroe,
Chairman
715 Clinton Pl., River Forest,
Ill.

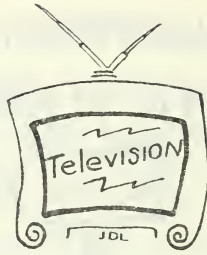
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Mrs. Theodora L. Charvat
Chicago Boys' Clubs
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Mrs. Allan L. Levy
6814 Jeffery, Chicago

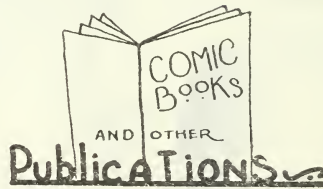
Mrs. Paul Moore
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228 N. LaSalle St., Chicago

OTHER COMMITTEES

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Local Councils—Mrs. William A. Lucht, Chairman, R.F.D. 1, Box 215, West Chicago, Ill.; Wendell C. Kennedy, Co-Chairman, 100 E. Edwards St., Springfield, Ill.

Conference Programs—Ben-Zion Emanuel, Chairman, 206 E. Adams St., Springfield, Ill.

Membership—Mrs. Allan L. Levy, Chairman, 6814 Jeffery St., Chicago.

Bulletin editor—Mrs. William A. Lucht, R.F.D. 1, Box 215, West Chicago, Ill.

The official connections or vocations of committee members are as follows:

Mrs. Robert L. Aronson, Past President, Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations.

Rabbi Morton Berman, Temple Isaiah Israel.

Miss Jessie Binford, Executive Director, Juvenile Protective Association of Chicago.

Miss Sophia C. Camenisch, Member of Board, Association of Chicago Teachers.

M. E. Chapman, Assistant Superintendent, Temperance League of Illinois.

Mrs. Theodora L. Charvat, Director of Public Relations, Chicago Boys' Club.

Mrs. Donald Dukelow, President, Children's Film Council, Glen Ellyn, Ill.

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Wendell C. Kennedy, Illinois Education Association, Springfield, Ill.

Mrs. Jean C. Laufman, Director of Women's Supreme Council, B'Nai B'rith.

Mrs. Allan L. Levy, Benevolent Men and Women's Association, Chicago.

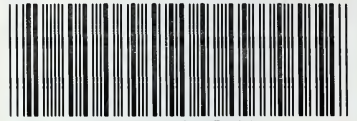
Owen Marsh, Representative of Illinois Area Council, Y.M.C.A.

Mrs. Paul Moore, Chairman, Village-wide Board of PTA Radio, Television Listening Council of Wilmette, Ill.

Mrs. Ruth Moore, Radio Director, Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago.

Mrs. Courtland Munroe, Past Director (District 6), Radio Chairman, Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs.

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- Miss Dorothy Sears, Moral Rearmament Group, Winnetka, Ill.
- Miss Agatha L. Shea, Director, Children's Work, Chicago Public Library.
- Lester L. Schloerb, Director of Pupil Welfare, Chicago Board of Education.
- Arthur Schultz, Director, Chicago Recreation Commission.
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- John R. Snively, Counselor, Section of Criminal Law, American Bar Association.
- C. Walter Stone, University of Illinois Library School.
- Albert Ben Stroud, State Youth Adviser, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- James Pat Sweeney, Director of Public Relations, Catholic Youth Organization, Chicago.
- Mrs. John Shennan, Motion Picture Chairman, Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs.
- Mrs. Eunice Tillman, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Chicago.
- Jean Dickout Lucht, Past Motion Picture Chairman, Illinois Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.



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